4/5/71

Dear Harold,

This pertains to your recent (3/19) comments re my JFK project.

Check on the missile crisis matter. I had noted that but missed its significance. The measures which JFK took in '63 to prevent invasion by exiles are not described by either Sor or Schles, but doubtlessly they would have further embittered those guys against JFK. On the missiles, I've come across the whole story now in a scanning of RFK's "13 days," which looks good. I get the impression this was the doing of State and not CIA. TURKEY MISSILES

The stuff on Berlin is becoming more apparent to me now, though I am inhibited by my(now realized) terrible knowledge of history, epp. current. I really have no idea of the current status of NATO, much less its past. From Schles I get the impression that in '63 DeGaulle was causing serious troubles. What you say JFK would have done with Berlin surely would have wrecked NATO.

As for JFK's speach at the Berlin wall, that has always puzzled me. I just couldn't see such words coming from him at that time (although shortly afterwards a statement was issued that his references to "communism" did not apply to the USSR but to independent communist parties.) That the reaction terrified JFK I sensed from Schles, though I would not call it the beginning of his education. Perhaps a turning point. I think the missile crisis might better be called the beginning, if not earlier.

Really, I think it is beyond me to have understood that JFK's "cash" was not money. But from what you say I've learned much. Not knowing much about our military presence in Europe (other than official rhetoric) I hesitate to accept your assertion that it has been only to prevent domestic change. My first response was "Why would we want to prevent domestic change?" If JFK were to abandon Germany, then I must agree with you that he was ready to "reorder the world."

I have changed no formulation. When I said you gave me the Berlin quote in "strictest confidence," I meant that you had emphasized the need for silence on it more than on others. This does not mean that I'd be more inclined to keep it secret than I would others, for I regard all as equally confidential, as we originally formulated and as I intend to maintain.

Enclosed are some NYT microfilm printouts. Sorry the print is so small--the best I could do. There should be more, but I think these will be of interest to you.

Again, I can't tell you how much I appreciate your help on this.

Best,

Howard